

Message Text

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16

ACTION SS-25

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R 160915Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5043

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7469

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJ: PROPOSED NAIM VISIT

REF: A. KABUL 6877

B. STATE 271409

1. IT IS VERY HARD FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE FOR TURNDOWN ON THE NAIM VISIT CONTAINED IN REF B, AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD TAKE ONE MORE LOOK AT THE SITUATION.

2. I COMPLETELY AGREE THAT AN IV GRANT FOR NAIM WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE APPROPRIATE. I ALSO VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT HE WILL VISIT THE U.S. EXCEPT IN RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INVITATION. THAT IS THE BASIS ON WHICH HE HAS ALREADY GONE TO THE USSR, CHINA, IRAN AND ELSEWHERE AS PRESIDENT DAOUD'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

3. THE PROBLEM THEN APPEARS TO BOIL DOWN TO FUNDING AN OFFICIAL VISIT. I ASSUME THE AFGHANS WOULD PAY THE ROUND-TRIP FARE FROM KABUL. THE COST TO US OF NAIM'S VISIT WOULD THEREFORE INCLUDE HIS AND PERHAPS TWO AIDES' STAY IN WASHINGTON FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, STAY IN NEW YORK FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS, AIR FARE WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK, AN EIGHTH-FOUR LUNCH AND PERHAPS A LUNCH IN NEW
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YORK. I DON'T BELIEVE COSTS WOULD EXCEED A MAXIMUM OF

TWO OR THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

4. SINCE WE APPEAR TO HAVE NO DISAGREEMENT ON THE
DESIRABILITY OF A NAIM VISIT AND SINCE IT APPEARS FROM PARA
3 REF B THAT THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE SECRETARY'S CALENDARS
DO NOT PRESENT INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS, I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT
CAN LAY ITS HANDS ON THIS RELATIVELY SMALL SUM. I THINK
THE BENEFITS TO US IN A NAIM VISIT ARE CERTAINLY WORTH
THAT MUCH IN FY 76.

5. REGARDS.

ELIOT

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NNN

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